

A3  
canceled.

--36. A method of treating chronic infections, arthritis or rheumatic disorders comprising administering a pharmaceutical composition according to claim 17 to a patient.--

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**IN THE ABSTRACT:**

Please amend the application to include a page entitled "**ABSTRACT**" and add thereto:

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A4

--What is disclosed is an LPS-binding and -neutralizing peptide; a pharmaceutical composition including the peptide, and a pharmaceutically acceptable diluent, carrier or adjuvant; and methods of treating medical conditions by administering said pharmaceutical composition to a patient.--

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**REMARKS**

The present application was originally filed as an international application. This preliminary amendment is being filed in order to place the application in a form which is in conformity with United States practice.

Claims 8, 12-16, 18 and 20 have been amended to remove multiple dependencies. Claims 1-7, 9, and 11 have been amended for conformance to United States practice. Furthermore, Claims 21-28 have been cancelled and replaced with new claims 29-36 for conformance with United States practice.

An abstract has also been added as required by United States PTO practice.

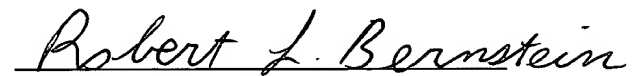
Inasmuch as the present amendment does not introduce new subject matter and, in any

event, places the application in better condition for consideration on the merits, entry hereof is respectfully requested.

Applicants believe that no fees are due with the amendment of the claims. However, the PTO is authorized to charge Deposit Account No. 08-2461 if it is determined that any fees are due.

A duplicate copy of this sheet is enclosed for that purpose.

Respectfully submitted,

  
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